

State Legislative Update

The November 3rd mid-terms are fast approaching. Republicans currently hold seven of Indiana's nine Congressional districts, both US Senate seats, supermajorities in both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly, and control of all statewide offices. Will any of that change or will status quo remain? Most importantly, November 3rd doesn't just determine who wins the political race – it will determine who actually governs.

The Indiana Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Comptroller (formerly Auditor of State) are on the ballot, as are all 100 Indiana House of Representatives districts and 25 state Senate seats. The significant storyline in Indiana politics this election cycle seems focused on internal politics and changes within the Republican party itself, especially after the contentious mid-decade congressional redistricting fight last December and what

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Swizer (center) with previous award winners.

Pendleton Superintendent Awarded by IMPA

On September 17, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) presented the annual Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award at its Linemen Appreciation Event to a deserving lineman in an IMPA member community.

The 2026 recipient of the award was Craig Switzer, Supervisor for the Pendleton Electric Utility in Pendleton, Indiana. Switzer joined Pendleton's electric utility in 2014, and from the start began going above and beyond for the local community. Since becoming leader of the local utility, Switzer fostered an impactful team of linemen that are looked up to by their community.

No matter the time of day or the weather, Switzer responds swiftly to power

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Pendleton Superintendent

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outages and storm damage situations, demonstrating his unwavering dependability. One example of this is when a tornado ripped through the community on Memorial Day of 2019, bringing massive storm damage to the town. Switzer immediately shut down power from the town's substations and began to organize emergency actions throughout the night to prevent further damage or injury to anybody. Lines throughout the town were severely damaged, streets were blocked, and several gas mains were leaking. Switzer effectively coordinated with town staff and his line crews to bring the community back to a sense of normalcy. When mutual aid teams arrived, Switzer directed each team in an efficient and safe manner, joining them in the field to conduct work.

When another tornado passed near Pendleton years later, Switzer dispatched his linemen to rescue a family trapped by downed lines and a heavily damaged home just outside of the town. Pendleton utility customers, and customers nearby, know that they can depend on Switzer's expertise and compassion when worst comes to worst.

"Whether working through severe weather or late-night emergencies, Craig is always the first to get out and help his team when they encounter difficult situations," said Scott Reske, Town Manager



Switzer with his family

of Pendleton. "Prioritizing safety and creating a strong team work ethic are two values that display his commitment to the people he serves."

On non-emergency days, Switzer stays busy collaborating with several town leaders to ensure Pendleton has access to reliable, affordable energy. He shows compassion for the customers he serves, integrating empathy toward them while solving problems quickly and intelligently. Switzer leads by example, and his team regularly adopts his strong work ethic, friendly disposition, and passion for linework.

"Craig is well-deserving of this award," said Jack Alvey, President and CEO of IMPA. "We're proud to have him as an IMPA commissioner and ally in public power. Craig truly embodies everything that the Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award seeks to honor."

Kerry Vincent was hired as IMPA's Manager of Technical Services in 1999 and took on the role of leading the newly formed IMPA Service Corp the next year, while the program was still in its infancy. His innate knack for understanding distribution system problems and solutions allowed IMPA Service Corp to blossom, and IMPA's small utilities viewed him with the upmost trust whenever they experienced issues with their infrastructure. In 2021, IMPA established the Kerry Vincent Award to recognize a lineworker from a member community that embodies the traits Vincent exhibited in his everyday life: Commitment, Compassion, Character, and Community. •

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resulted in the 2026 Republican primaries. The temperature of national politics remains high, and while the landscape overall in Indiana will remain predominantly Republican, the biggest question mark is to what degree.

There will be big changes in the Indiana Senate going into the 2027 session. In August, Republican Senators endorsed Senator Chris Garten (SD 45) to succeed Senator Rod Bray (SD 47) as Senate President Pro Tempore post-election. Senator Bray, who has led the caucus since 2018, announced in July that he would resign from the leadership position, but would remain in that role until after the November elections when a formal caucus vote will be taken. There will be additional Senate Republican leadership changes including a new Majority Floor Leader and Caucus Chair. Additionally, the Indiana Senate will have a significantly different look post-election with at least ten new members and at least eight new committee chairs. The loss of institutional legislative knowledge and experience will change that chamber in ways not seen for a long time.

Over in the Indiana House of Representatives, there will not be as much wholesale change. While several seats are being challenged and Republicans are expected to retain outright control, the question is by what margin. The current split is 70 Republicans and 30 Democrats. There are always surprises on election night, so stay tuned.

The most interesting statewide race to watch is Secretary of State. The major party candidates for this contest are chosen through a convention of party loyalists, not the primary election. Republican Max Engling was selected, defeating incumbent Secretary of State Diego Morales. Democrat Beau Bayh is his party's choice, and Lauri Shillings is the Libertarian. The fourth

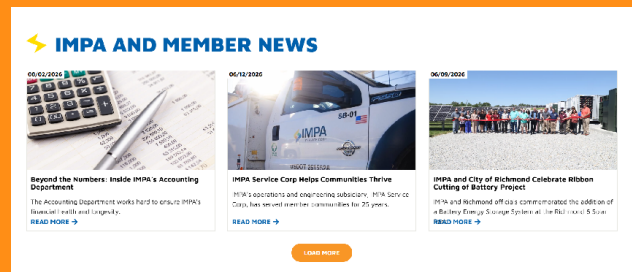
candidate is former Indianapolis Republican mayor Greg Ballard running as an independent under the newly formed Lincoln Party. Barring an unforeseen turn of events, the Treasurer and Comptroller will remain in Republican hands.

While Indiana's nine Congressional seats are all contested, the 5th District has gotten attention from both inside the state and on the national level. Incumbent Republican US Representative Victoria Spartz is facing a robust challenge from Democrat State Senator JD Ford. CD 5 covers all or parts of six counties, running from the northern suburbs of central Indiana up to Grant County.

After November 3rd, all eyes will turn toward the 2027 legislative session. We expect plenty of energy-related legislation to be introduced. IMPA will continue engaging with policymakers, telling our story, and making sure Indiana's public power voices are heard. •

Check out IMPA's Web Posts

IMPA posts regularly on its webpage at www.impa.com/news to help keep utility customers, developers, and leaders up to date on all things IMPA. The posts feature IMPA programs, department spotlights, updates on legislative happenings, and project announcements. Visit our webpage to learn more today!





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IMPA Wire

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IMPA Hosts 2026 Linemen Appreciation

On September 17, IMPA held its sixth annual Lineman Appreciation Event to celebrate the workers who dedicate their lives to keeping lights on in the Agency's member communities. Over 100 utility leaders and lineworkers from municipalities across Indiana joined at IMPA's headquarters for a fun-filled day to recognize the hard work and dedication of lineworkers throughout the state.

At the event, attendees spent time visiting dozens of vendors, participated in skeet shooting and yard games, a knot tying competition, a cornhole tournament, and networked with other utility employees from around the state.

The day's events also included recognition of public power linemen and presentation of the Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award. Speaking at the ceremony was Joe Plake, Electric



Department Superintendent in Tipton, Indiana.

"Being a lineman is selfless, it's integrity, it's honor, it's doing the right thing," said Plake. "You miss out on a lot of things to make a sacrifice for your community. But it's our duty to answer that call. When you're able to get the lights back on for people who've lost everything due to flooding or tornadoes, it gives them a small bit of peace. That's what keeps me going during storms, and it's truly a good career." •